

William Harding House
278-282 South Main Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-234

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
134-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-234

WILLIAM HARDING HOUSE

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RI,
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134-

Address: 278-282 South Main Street, Providence, Providence
County, Rhode Island.

Present Owner: Demolished.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This was a large, three-and-a-half story brick
house, with a store in the basement which was at
ground level in the front.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1795 Asher Robbins, executor of the Estate of Joseph Field, cooper, for \$1200 for payment of debt to William Harding, a certain lot of land with dwelling house and other buildings. Bounded: W on Water St 51'; extends E/ly about 120' to a highway; N/ly by a gangway and is the same Estate said Joseph bought of William West wherein the said William the grantee now lives. - Deed Book 25, page 42, in Providence City Hall.

1813 William Harding, tailor sells for \$5000 to Richmond Bullock, merchant, a certain lot of land with two dwelling houses bounded: W on Main St. 51' holding width E/ly 102' to a street or gangway; N/ly on an Alley; and S/ly on land of grantee. - Deed Book 37, page 191, in Providence City Hall.

1840 WILL: Richmond Bullock: "I give and bequeath to my daughter Julia Bullock my Harding House and lot so-called on Maine Street. - Wills Book 16, page 142, in Providence City Hall.

1854 Property is taxed to Julia Bullock.

1881 Julia Bullock gives power of attorney to Edward Pearce jr. - Deed Book 307, page 520, in Providence City Hall.

1894 WILL: Julia Bullock names Henry and Edward Pearce and Thomas Harris as executors of her property. - Wills Book 37, page 203, in Providence City Hall.

1940 R I Hospital Trust Company u/w of Henry Pearce sells to A Gerard Dunn a certain lot of land and buildings on the SE corner of S Main Street and Harding's Alley. Bounded W by S Main Street 112.35'; N by Harding's Alley 110'; E by Well Street; S by D. Fitzgerald 55.32'; W 26.14' and S 44.97' by Desmond Fitzgerald.... (The property transferred includes #288-292 South Main Street. - Deed Book 830, page 313, in Providence City Hall.

1946 Property taxed to Well Street Co Inc.

1950 Property taxed to Samuel Stanley Edward, Inc.

2. Date of erection: Between 1795 and 1813, traditionally dated c. 1810.

3. Architect: Attributed to John Holden Greene.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
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